DEMOCRATIC
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"STICK TO OUR OLD MILITARIST PRINCIPLES"

— *W. German Wehrmacht Commander*

The officers and men of the new West German Wehrmacht should "stick to the old principles, those principles we used to have", Inspector General Adolf Heusinger stated on September 27th.

Heusinger, who was Hitler's Chief of Operations from 1940 to 1944, is a life-long professional soldier. In his autobiography, published in 1950, Heusinger declared that he had been in sympathy with the aims of the nazis as early as 1923.

Heusinger was addressing Wehrmacht officers and foreign military observers at the conclusion of the first full scale West German army manoeuvres. Reporting his speech, the Hamburg paper "Welt am Sonntag" reported on September 28th:

"General Heusinger awakened the criticism of many foreign guests and also Federal Army officers when he commented that the formation of the (nazi) Wehrmacht was also not yet completed in 1939. 'But despite our numerical inferiority at that time we achieved success after success: this was the result of our good leadership' said Heusinger. 'In a coming war we would be in an inferiority once again, as we were once before in the wide expanses of Russia. But the war experience of the officers and NCOs is now combined with the enthusiasm of the young men who have joined us'."

Enlarging on this report, the West German newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" reported on September 30th that Heusinger had also stated:

"We should remember our past, and we should not neglect the decisive factors of leadership which bring success. Let us stick to the old principles, those principles we used to have."

Speaking on the same occasion, Heusinger's immediate deputy, General Hans Roettiger, Inspector of the West German Land Forces, recalled the manoeuvres of Hitler's army on the same spot in 1935, when he was chief of staff to General Guderian. He said:

"23 years ago the Wehrmacht carried out similar exercises in the same area. At that time we established the prototypes of the Panzer divisions and the motorised divisions. The later successes of the German army, particularly the armoured and motorised units, proved that our planning was good at that time."

*

Here is a brief biographical note on General Heusinger, who today holds top rank in the West German armed forces, and who in the near future is likely to be able to add atomic weapons to his armoury.

Adolf Heusinger, today General Inspector of the West German armed forces. In the First World War he served as Lieutenant on the western front, winning two Iron Crosses. Returning to Germany from POW camp in December 1919 he immediately rejoined the forces at a time when the army was being radically reduced and only 100 percent reliable militarists were being taken on. In his autobiography "Befehl in Widerstreit", published in West Germany in 1950, Heusinger states that he sympathised with Hitler's first attempt to take power in 1923, but did not take part because he was sure the attempt would fail.

After Hitler came to power, Heusinger was rapidly promoted, and in 1940 he became Chief of Operations on Hitler's General Staff. **He was responsible for the military planning of all the nazi invasions from that date.** He was named as a nazi war criminal in the first list of War Criminals drawn up by the United Nations. After the war he was held by the Americans for three years.

In his autobiography, Heusinger had this to say about the reputation of Hitler's soldiers: "Our soldiers have done magnificent deeds. I hope that will be recognised at a later date. They have fought to the last, and kept their honour unsullied."

Savings Going Up

Fourteen million people have money in savings accounts in the German Democratic Republic. The average savings per family are now 1,830 marks.

Total savings have increased steadily from one thousand million marks to eleven thousand million marks in 1958, but the biggest increase — of three thousand million marks — occurred in 1957.

WORLD'S LONGEST PIPE-LINE PROJECTED

Surveying work will soon begin for the world's longest pipeline, which will bring oil from the borders of Asia right into the centre of Europe.

The pipeline, which will have an estimated length of about 2000 miles, will carry oil from the rich fields of the Ural mountains in the Soviet Union right across Poland into the German Democratic Republic.

Experts from the Soviet Union, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were meeting in Warsaw at the beginning of October to hammer out the first plans for the pipeline, which is expected to have a decisive influence on economic developments in eastern and central Europe in the years to come.

The plan for the great pipeline project was first broached in July this year at the Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party in East Berlin. Preliminary work on the projection of the line, carried out since then, suggest that oil should be flowing direct from the Urals to the refineries in Democratic Germany by 1963. Approximately five million tons of oil per year will be supplied by the pipeline.

Definite statistics on the new project are not yet available, but provisional calculations show that the pipeline will be about twice as long as the Trans-Arabian Pipeline from the Persian Gulf to Sidon in Lebanon. Owing to the hard winter in eastern Europe it will be necessary to lay the line at least six feet deep in the earth to prevent it freezing in winter. Pumping stations will have to be situated every ten or fifteen miles along its course.

The new pipeline will be of immense importance to the chemical industry of the German Democratic Republic, which is already one of the most important and productive in Europe. At present the main raw material for the chemical industry is soft coal, of which Democratic Germany is the world's greatest producer. A considerable part of this soft coal is at present consumed in the relatively expensive process of producing synthetic petrol.

The provision, within a few years, of big supplies of cheaply transported natural oil will make this costly process superfluous. It will then be possible to develop on a very large scale the production of synthetics such as polyvinylchloride, polyvinylacetate, and polyacrylnitril, all of which have a valuable part to play in the modern plastics industry.

The oil brought in with the pipeline will not be used exclusively for fuel purposes, however. Huge new chemical plants are already being projected which will use the raw oil for the production of "aromatics" such as benzol, toluol and xylol, which can only be prepared with great difficulty and expense from soft coal, but which can be made much more easily from natural oil. These aromatics are the starting point for various synthetic fibres such as perlon and lanon which are becoming of increasing importance in the textile industry.

In forthcoming numbers, GERMAN REPORT will keep readers up to date on the progress of the great pipeline project, and the allied development of the chemical industry.

New Price Reduction

Shoes, soap, and a number of other goods, became much cheaper in the German Democratic Republic on October 6th. The prices of certain types of shoes were slashed by more than half, and the average price reduction brought shoes down to about two-thirds of their previous price. A similar reduction was made in the case of soap and soap products.

Other goods sharply cut in price were the brief-cases which form part of the normal equipment of nearly every German office-worker, and the leather shorts which are a popular article of attire.

The latest price cut will mean an increase in annual purchasing power of about 360 million marks, enough for every family to buy two more pairs of good quality shoes at the new prices.

The new price reduction brings shoe prices, which were hitherto relatively high in the German Democratic Republic, roughly into line with the shoe prices in West Germany, although there is still a lag in quality. The price reduction is part of the drive to catch up with West Germany in pro-capita consumption of consumer goods by 1961.

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SKULL & CROSSBONES GENERAL ELECTED TO PARLAMENT

Butcher of Warsaw Climbs the Ladder

On September 28th 1958 West German voters elected an SS General and proven war criminal as their parliamentary representative.

Heinz Reinefarth, 55 year old professional nazi rowdy, who was showered with honours by Hitter in the course of World War Two, was chosen by the voters of the province of Schleswig-Holstein as one of the members of the provincial parliament.

The 84,000 electors who gave their votes to Reinefarth's party, the "All-German Block", cannot claim that they did not know what they were doing, since Herr Reinefarth's crimes have been effectively publicised in the West German press in recent weeks. The judicial authorities in Schelwig-Holstein were recently forced to open an investigation into Reinefarth's war-time activities: the investigation has not yet been concluded, but it is assumed that Reinefarth would now claim "parliamentary immunity" if proceedings were actually taken against him.

Who is Heinz Reinefarth? This is what Heinrich Himmler chief of Hitler's Gestapo, said about him on December 29th 1943 in a letter to Martin Bormann, Hitler's right-hand man:

"SS General Berkelmann died yesterday . . . As his successor I have named SS Major General Reinefarth, Holder of the Knight's Cross and Party Comrade. Reinefarth was born on 26. 12. 1903, has membership number 1,268,933 in the Party (Nazi Party,ed.) and SS number 56,634. He is an SS man from the fighting period.

Documentary Film Exposes Herr Reinefarth's Crimes

A documentary film exposing the details about SS General Reinefarth's crimes is available in Britain. The film, entitled "Holiday on Sylt", was made by DEFA, the film company of the German Democratic Republic. All enquiries about showing this film in Britain should be addressed to:

Plato Films Ltd.
18 Greek Str.
London W. 1

Heil Hitler! Yours, H. Himmler."

The "fighting period" referred to in this letter means the period before Hitler took power in Germany.

Himmler thus appointed Reinefarth police chief of the "Warthegau", a part of Poland which had been forcibly incorporated in nazi Germany in 1939. His job here was to liquidate the remnants of the Polish population, and to settle German "colonists" in the towns and villages thus vacated.

He did his work so sucessfully that at the end of July 1944, Hitler decided to promote Reinefarth to the rank of Lieutenant General. A facsimile of the promotion document is reproduced on the next page. It was the culmination of Reinefarth's military career, which had been marked by a rapidity of promotion almost unparalleled in history: he had been only a simple sergeant in 1940.

It is significant that this promotion came through just ten days after the generals' bomb plot against Hitler on July 20th. By the end of July, dozens of Hitler's generals had been liquidated or arrested: promotions at this period were only granted to officers who were known to be absolutely fanatical followers of their Fuehrer.

Two days after his promotion, the Polish rising against the Germans broke out in Warsaw. Reinefarth was immeriately ordered to the scene, and took command of the main SS forces engaged in putting down the rising. There is an immense mass of documentary evidence, and of eye-witness evidence given by survivors, which proves that the troops under Reinefarth's command shot down tens of thousands of men, women and children, combattant and non-combattant, during the action.

Here is one piece of evidence, given by Professor Hans Thieme, a German officer who himself took part in the fighting. Writing in the West German news magazine "Spiegel" on January 8th this year, Professor Thieme stated:

"In the first days of the rising, everybody was shot, men, women

1944: General in Hitler's SS

1958: MP in West Germany

and children. We saw them lying in heaps, for instance people who had fled into the cellar of a church . . . I was the adjutant to the commander of an artillery detachment, who had to report to Herr Reinefarth. Reinefarth was standing on one side of a street along which an endless column of Polish civilians was being driven by German soldiers and police . . . Herr Reinefarth said to my commander: 'That is our biggest problem. We just have not got enough ammunition to knock them all off'."

During the trial of major war criminals at Nuremberg by the Four-Power Tribunal, Reinefarth's superior officer SS General Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, gave the following evidence on January 26th 1946:

Question: Was the Reinefarth Fighting Group always kept separate from the troops of the 9th Army?

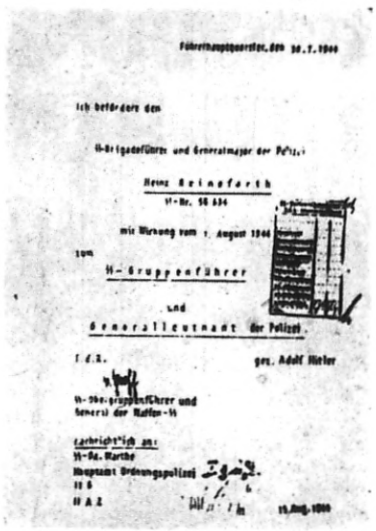
Answer: Yes, these were troops personally selected by Himmler.

Question: Did Himmler, as commander of the Wehrmacht in the hinterland, command the operation against Warsaw?

Answer: I do not know the details, but Himmler knew what was going on. The Reinefarth Group was responsible to him. This group include the Dirlewanger Brigade.

Question: Is that the famous brigade formed of criminals?

Answer: Yes, sir . . . When I arrived in Warsaw there was great confusion . . . I personally saw a group of civilians being driven together in a cemetery and shot on the spot by members of the Reinefarth Fighting Group.



Promotion for Reinefarth in July 1944

In 1944 the British Government made specific promise that Reinefarth and his consorts would be punished for their crimes. On September 9th 1944, the Foreign Office in London issued the following official statement:

"Information has reached the British Government of the tragic sufferings and hardships to which the civilian population of Warsaw has been exposed in the course of the fighting in the Polish capital. Civilian men, women and children, the wounded and infirm, as well as soldiers of the Polish Home Army have been victims of German barbarity. Defenceless persons have been driven in front of German tanks as protection against the Polish forces. In their declaration of August 30th the British Government warned the Germans against violation of the laws and customs of war in their treatment of members of the Polish Home Army. They feel bound to issue a similar warning in regard to those German crimes against civilians. *The will do all in their power to ensure that those responsible, whoever they may be, are made to answer for their crimes.*"

After the war, the Polish Government repeatedly requested the extradicion of Reinefarth who, was living peacefully in West Germany. The British authorities, ignoring the pledge given in 1944, refused the applications. Last refusal came on July 24th 1950, when a Major K. I. M. Buchanan, of the Allied Liaison Branch, British Army of the Rhine, informed the Polish War Crimes Mission officially that "the British authorities have decided that for security reasons extradition cannot be granted."

In 1952, Reinefarth was elected mayor of the holiday town of Sylt. Now, in 1958, he has been elected to the provincial parliament of Schleswig-Holstein. What will be the next step in the new "democratic" career of this blood-stained criminal?

INFECTED

By Ursula Buerton

We were alone on the windy platform of Warnemuende station. We got into the same compartment and began to talk. She was working as a bock-keeper in a nationally owned factory and seemed to be about forty years old.

I soon found out that her husband had been a doctor and had been killed in the war. She had had a hard time bringing up her three sons. The seventeen-year-old was an apprentice in a physics laboratory, the fifteen-year-old was learning to be a mechanic and the thirteen-year-old was still at primary school but would probably go on to high school.

Her blue eyes were a little weary and her face faded. She had seen better days, she told me with a sigh. But she cheered up as she told me about her plan to take her three sons to visit her mother in Heidelberg to celebrate her seventieth birthday. They had not seen each other for ten years, for her mother and her brothers and sisters living in West Germany did not dare to come to the German Democratic Republic — a silly and exaggerated fear, she admitted.

Then she began to talk about her children. Her eldest was a very clever boy, but he wanted to join the army and she was against it.

"Why?" I asked. "I'm not interested in politics" was her answer.

The train drew into Rostock station.

She is probably planning to stay in West Germany with her family, I thought, as we parted. But I met her again.

We met quite accidentally in the lift in the Textile Fair building at the Leipzig Fair. Coincidences of this kind really do happen sometimes, although one does not like to present readers with them.

We got out on the third floor and I asked her how she had enjoyed the trip.

It was wonderful, she said. She had quite forgotten how beautifully Heidelberg is situated and how beautiful the city itself is. She had gone for wonderful walks through the Neckar valley with her sons. And you could buy absolutely anything in the shops . . .

"And did your family not want to keep you over there?" I asked.

"Well, yes, they did", she replied. She hesitated, looked thoughtfully

away, pushed a strand of grey-blond hair under her narrow-brimmed hat and began groping for words to explain her thoughts to me.

"I had actually considered staying over there. My family had already found a job for me. My sisters and brothers are doing very well. They could have helped my sons a lot. But then things turned out quite differently. My mother and I cried with happiness when we met first, but after the first few days we had nothing to talk about any more ...

"But I felt estranged not only from my family, but also from the people who used to be my best friends. People refuse to think about anything important. Their ideas about the German Democratic Republic were positively insulting. I began to defend it and then the arguments really began.

They said I had caught the disease and had turned into a real red. They couldn't talk to my eldest son at all after the impossible way I had brought him up."

She paused a moment, then added:

"It was like breathing stuffy air the whole time. And I thought to myself, how can I let my sons grow up in this unhealthy atmosphere, where nothing seems to have value any more? No! I'd a hundred times rather put up with the small inconveniences here and be able to breathe fresh air.

"I only realised when I was over there how very much I have changed during the last ten years. I've been ..." and she hunted for the right word.

"Infected", I suggested —

"Yes, infected." She nodded and smiled.

from "Frau von Heute", East Berlin September 19th 1958

She Drives an Engine

The brakes gripped softly and the train came gently to a halt.

"She brakes well" remarked the engine driver who was waiting to take over, and that is the highest praise an expert can give. The art of putting on the brakes needs learning and you can recognise a good engine driver by the way he does it, just as you can tell a good driver by the way he changes gear.

"It's wonderful to feel that one has such power over a big engine", said Gerlinde Krauss as she climbed down from her locomotive; "I can't think of anything I like better than engine-driving."

"When I was a little girl", she went on, "I played with dolls like most children of my age. But I liked building better, especially with steel building sets. I was interested in mathematics at school too, and later on I wanted to learn something technical. As you see, I managed that too."

Gerlinde past her matriculation in 1949 and then plunged into technical work.

"I got a job as a mechanic in an agricultural machines hire station in 1949 — the first woman mechanic in the German Democratic Republic, in fact. I loved the work and went at it with a will."

She soon found that she wanted to learn something about politics too. Her father was a teacher, so it was a logical step for her to join the National Democratic Party in 1950. She is now a member of the Halle District Council and this year she was elected to attend the local and district congresses of her party.

"I finished my mechanics' training in 1951 and went on to the Institute of Technology in Dresden" she told us. "Then as I got more and more interested in railways I transferred to the Railway Engineering Institute in 1953, and took my diploma in this

branch. The institute had been working on foreign contracts for special types of engines, a narrow-gauge locomotive with wood fuelling for West Africa, machines for Bulgaria and India, and I was put on the job of constructing a goods train locomotive for Peru."

After graduating in 1956 Gerlinde started work in the senior technical service of the Halle district railways administration. She was sent for further practical training to the engine drivers' school — the first woman to attend this school and the first woman to drive a locomotive in the Republic. Her instructors all agree that she really can drive a locomotive properly, too.

She still drives a steam engine or travels as observer on electric engines if necessary, but her real job is that of an inspector of railway engines.

Gerlinde has also found time to get married — to a fellow-student of the Institute of Railway Engineering.

"We have the same interests and worries" she said, "and I also understand my husband's work, so that we get along all the better together."

She is one of the increasing number of women in the German Democratic Republic who are making a success both of their careers and of their married lives.

(from "National-Zeitung", East Berlin)

"Magnificent"

The young people in the German Democratic Republic are magnificent, said Mr Victor Carvell, Secretary of the British Civil Service Union, who has been visiting the Democratic Republic.

In an interview with the English-language service of Berlin Radio, Mr Carvell said that he was very well pleased with what he had seen during his visit. "Perhaps the people here are not as well dressed as the people in England" he said. "There is a shortage of some goods which they might like to have. But they look well, they look confident, they are happy

"But another thing to look at is the children. The investment of a nation is in its young people. And your young people are magnificent. They seem well fed, they are alert when you speak to them, they are interested in things, and when I look at the details of the education you are giving them, I am certain that the German Democratic Republic has a great future because of its youth.

"What has impressed me more than anything is the confidence of the people and the optimism they show about their future."

GENERAL ELECTION

Details of New Electoral Law

The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic passed unanimously on September 25th the new election law for the general elections to be held in the Republic on November 16th.

Addressing parliament on the new law, Minister of the Interior Karl Maron said that a new election law had been made necessary by the great progress in state and social development in the Democratic Republic since the last general elections in 1954. Main change in the electoral law is that in future the Republic will be divided into 24 constituencies, each of which will elect between 10 and 20 members to the People's Chamber. Under the previous law, only one consolidated list of candidates for the whole Republic was presented to the electorate. This change will make it easier for the population to keep in close touch with their members of the People's Chamber.

"The election movement now beginning", Minister Karl Maron stated, "must make a contribution to spreading the mass initiative of the workers for the solution of present problems. In our elections, in distinction from the elections in imperialist states, all basic political, economic and cultural questions are included in the electoral discussions, in order that all citizens should have full clarity on the great perspectives of socialism. The workers, together with candidates and government officials, must examine very carefully how they can fulfil the main economic task: that is to say to overtake West Germany in pro-capita consumption of the main foodstuffs and consumer goods . . .

"In the coming weeks all government officials must devote all their energies to the organisation of a convincing victory of the candidates of the National Front of Democratic Germany. All citizens should be urged to take an active part in forming the new democratic life, through the fulfillment of the economic plan, the speedy gathering in of the harvest, and an increase in the pledges to exceed the plan and to participate in the voluntary work for the National Reconstruction Programme."

Here are some of the main points from the election law passed on September 25th: Paragraphs dealing with purely technical details, absent voters, etc. have been omitted.

1. Election Principles

The members of the People's Chamber are elected for a term of years in general, equal, direct and secret election on the basis of proportional representation.

2. Right to Vote and Right to Stand.

All men and women of German nationality who have completed their 18th year on the date of the election, and who reside in the German Democratic Republic, are entitled to vote . . .

Eligible for election are all men and women eligible to vote who have completed their 21st year and who are resident in the German Democratic Republic or its capital Berlin.

6. Composition of the People's Chamber.

400 members are elected for the People's Chamber.

Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, is entitled to send 66 representatives to the People's Chamber.

7. Election of Supplementary Candidates.

Supplementary candidates are to be elected to the People's Chamber. The number of supplementary candidates will be at least 100. (These supplementary candidates take the seats of members who die, are removed from their seats, etc. ed.)

8. Constituencies.

The members of the People's Chamber will be elected from constituencies . . . according to the population. The number will vary between 10 and 20. The electoral commission of the Republic shall determine the definition of the constituencies etc . . .

9. Electoral Rolls.

The local councils, etc., shall prepare electoral rolls of all persons eligible to vote who are registered with the authorities in their area . . .

11. Inspection of Electoral Rolls.

The electoral rolls must be made available for inspection by the population for at least 15 days between October 17th and November 9th . . .

23. Voting Districts.

Each constituency shall be divided *into vonting districts. A voting* district should not include more than 2500 inhabitants, but it should not be so small that the secrecy of the poll is endangered.

27. Ballot boxes.

During the polling, the ballots will be collected and kept in a ballot box. The ballot box must be so constructed that it ensures the secrecy of the poll.

28. Polling Cabins.

In each polling booth there must be one or more polling cabins, so constructed that each voter may prepare his ballot without being observed.

29. Nomination of Candidates.

Entitled to nominate candidates are the democratic parties and mass organisations which aim at a democratic shaping of the state and social life of the entire Republic, and the organisation of which covers the entire state territory. They have the right to combine their nominations in the joint list of candidates of the National Front of Democratic Germany.

35. Introduction of Candidates.

Citizens nominated for candidature by the National Front of Democratic Germany are obliged to present themselves to electors in their constituencies, to give information on their previous social activity, their future work in the People's Chamber, and the fulfillment of the duties conferred upon them as members of the People's Chamber. Electors are entitled to propose the removal of candidates from the nomination list.

49. Recall of Members of the People's Chamber.

Electors have the right to demand the recall of members of the People's Chamber at electors' meetings called by the National Front of Democratic Germany.

New Works

A big asbestos concrete works is being built in Magdeburg in the German Democratic Republic which is expected, by 1961, to produce one and a quarter million square metres of slabs and 1,500 kilometres of piping, for use in roofing, farm buildings and drainage.

Work in Progress on Big New Harbour for Democratic Germany

The new deep-sea harbour at Rostock is now well under way. The East mole already stretches 525 metres out into the sea, and shovel cranes are biting a 180-metre wide lane through the strip of coast which divides the Baltic from a bulge in the Warnow river. Water will run through here in a few days, to form the new harbour entry.

Opposite the entry miles of piers are springing up. This is to be the centre of sea transport in Democratic Germany. By 1960 the first ten thousand ton freighters will be unloading in the new harbour.

This new harbour is urgently needed, since foreign trade is growing steadily and the turn-around capacity of the Wismar, Stralsund and Rostock harbour is not nearly enough, and a good deal still has to come through foreign ports.

This is an expensive proposition. It costs 70,000 dollars to transport 2,000 tons of Egyptian cotton via Hamburg. Democratic Germany spends 800 million roubles a year on chartering foreign ships and importing goods through foreign ports. Forty per cent of this has to be paid in sterling.

But according to the experts' calculations the new harbour will pay for itself in ten years. In addition, all the existing harbours in Democratic Germany are too shallow to handle properly the new ten thousand tonners now being built at East German shipyards. Wismar is the only harbour where it is just possible to load and unload ten thousand-ton freighters.

After careful consideration Rostock was chosen as the best place for a new harbour with deeper draft and bigger turnover capacity.

It is planned to have two docks 1100 yards long and 180 yards broad. There will also be an oil harbour with a number of quays. Turnover capacity is to be two million tons a year in 1960 and when the whole harbour is completed in 1967 total capacity should be 16 million tons a year. This means that there will be room for thirty to thirty-five 10,000 and 15,000 ton ships at one time.

Rostock also has to be linked up with the middle German railway and water transport network. Work on the tracks, a new railway station and two canals — one linking the Saaler Bodden with the Oder river and the other linking the Warnow river to the Elbe — is already in full swing.

Special Stamps Honour Anti-Fascist Fighters

The German Democratic Republic has issued a special set of stamps to commemorate leading German anti-fascists who were killed by the nazis in Buchenwald concentration camp.

We present below illustrations of these stamps, with short biographical notes on the persons honoured:

Albert Kuntz, born in 1896, metal worker. Joined Young Socialist movement in 1912, elected to Soldiers' Council in revolution of 1918. Joined Communist Party in 1918, elected to Central Committee in 1929. Arrested by the nazis in March 1933, and spent 12 years in prison and concentration camp until his murder by the nazis in January 1945.

Rudi Arndt, born in 1909, active at a very early age in the Jewish youth movement. Joined Young Communist League in 1928, served long prison term under Weimar Republic for anti-militarist propaganda. Arrested by the nazis in October 1933, murdered in May 1940 by SS guards.

Kurt Adams, born in 1889, doctor of philosophy. Member of the Social Democratic Party. Died in 1944 as the result of ill-treatment by the nazis in Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.

Rudolf Renner, born in 1894. Joined Socialist Youth Movement in 1910. Active in the anti-war agitation of the Spartacus Group in the First World War, joined Communist Party in 1918. Arrested by the nazis in April 1933, died of ill-treatment in Buchenwald in July 1940.

Walter Stoecker, born in 1891. Joined the Social Democratic Party in 1908, joined the Communist Party in 1920. Communist member of the Reichstag during the Weimar Republic. Arrested by the nazis in February 1933, died of mistreatment in Buchenwald in March 1939.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

Looking over the lists of reduced prices for shoes in Democratic Germany which came out at the beginning of October my mind went suddenly into reverse and I remembered quite distinctly standing in front of a shoe-shop window in Halle at the end of 1949 gazing at one pair of beautiful box calf ladies' walking shoes — price 270 marks — from Rumania. They shone in solitary splendour amongst a "display" of cloth plimsolls, "Igelit" sandals and ersatz rubber gumboots. You can get the same type of good quality walking shoes for 45 marks today, and the difference is even more when you take into account the considerable increases in wages which have occurred since then.

"Igelit" was a chemical product, produced in various textures and thicknesses, which had its hey-day in the early post-war years. It was not so bad when made up into toys, usable in a soft texture as washable table covering, so long as you didn't leave any food in direct contact with it, but torture to the feet when made up in its thickest texture into sandals, because there was some chemical in it which was really harmful. However, many people wore them in sheer desperation. They disappeared years ago from our shops.

Birthday

This week we are celebrating the ninth anniversary of the foundation of the German Democratic Republic, and I have just been looking through some back issues of the "Berliner Zeitung" of October 1949, the month when the Republic was proclaimed.

The yellowing pages of the newspaper reminded me sharply of other aspects of those bleak and comfortless days.

"The only electric light bulb in my possession burnt out a fortnight ago" wrote a desperate reader. "In the whole of East Berlin I have as yet not found a single one to replace it . . . Wouldn't it be possible to issue even one bulb a year to every household?"

And those were the days when the electricity — and gas — was still cut off most of the day and only turned on for a short time mornings and evenings.

We still ate all sorts of curious things, too — mustard sauce to cheer up the potatoes, chemical flavourings for eggless cake, or mysterious "liver sausage" compounded of various mashed vegetables and herbs.

In the nine-year-old files of the "Berliner Zeitung" I found lots of advertisements like: "Ersatz cinnamon (ready packaged), extra strong, cheap, can also be sold in small lots"- or "Have you heard? The sale of delicious tasting Rhine Vanilla Waffle Biscuits begins on October 10th. Only 50 grammes bread and 10 grammes sugar ration for one packet. Tested a thousand times — praised a thousand times!"

Soupy Soap

Even in 1949 people still looked more grubby and unkempt than even their shabby clothes warranted; soap was available but unrecognisable as soap, and the "Berliner Zeitung" cartoonist was hardly exaggerating when he wrote under his sketch of a housewife examining two small cubes on her kitchen table: "If only I knew which is the soup cube and which is the soap."

I don't hold with soup cubes, good or bad, but you can buy a variety of packet soups today, all very cheap. The enormous improvement in soap, though, has also been accompanied by drastic reductions in price; the latest price cut came this week.

Another terrible problem in 1949 was still window glass. "Many Berliners look forward with anxiety to the coming winter" wrote the "Berliner Zeitung" on October 18th that year. "There is some coal and wood in the cellar (or in the corner of the room or under the bed), so that they will be able to heat the stove; but their windows are still boarded up or patched with cardboard. Even the lucky ones who have managed to get hold of some wire glass or celluloid are fed up with living in eternal twilight. What will it be like in the middle of winter? Shall we have to live through our fifth post-war winter behind cardboard windows?".

There was a shortage of window glass for years after that, but it has now really been overcome and if by accident a window does get broken you can have it mended in a couple of days without any difficulty.

The first state-owned shops selling unrationed goods at higher prices, and called HO shops, opened at the end of 1948, but their numbers grew very slowly, even in Berlin, and in October 1949 the "Berliner Zeitung" published a pathetic letter from a suburban reader: "We housewives in Karlshorst hope very much that a HO shop will soon be opened here. We should also like to buy a few extras from time to time."

The things you could buy in the HO shops were terribly expensive, too; I remember the original price for a slice of the traditional sickly cream cake was 5 marks — for one slice! A slice now costs 90 pfennigs and the cake is of much better quality.

Stockings were still a serious problem in 1949; they were made of some sort of synthetic cotton which either shrank or stretched and the feet were like shapeless bags, quite innocent of seams. The "Berliner Zeitung" reported cautiously on October 23rd 1949 that:

"The Schwarza factory regards it as its special job to see that in the not too distant future our ladies can all wear ladder-proof Perlon stockings as a matter of course."

But I don't think people took this item very seriously at the time; it seemed a little too fantastic.

Sheer Hose

The actual figure given for Perlon stockings produced in the Republic during the first half of 1958 was just over sixteen and a half million pairs and, although they have not come down so much in price as many other articles — the first Perlons sold for about 25 marks a pair and the corresponding quality now sells for about 12 marks — practically all the women here do wear them. Some of them have even got hold of seamless ones, too, which are still mainly for export.

They are a good export item, too, and even the (West) "Berliner Wirtschaftsblatt" remarked on September 13th this year that "sales prospects for East German consumer goods (including ladies' clothing and stockings) look good, much better than a year or so ago."

Our shops look normal nowadays, and some of them very nice indeed — like the new "Sibylle" dress-shop in the Friedrichstrasse, the self-service grocery and hardware stores, and one or two furniture shops where you can at last buy some good, modern furniture.

Remembering those drab shops, shabby, underfed people and tumbledown houses with blind windows, one could almost say the Republic was born old and is getting younger every year.

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